

a second stage, the second stage being arranged to be movable with the first stage along the at least one axis;

a second driving device coupled to the second stage, the second driving device moving the second stage relative to the first stage; and

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a transmitter disposed between the first stage and the second stage, the transmitter being arranged to transmit force between the first stage and the second stage, wherein when the first driving device accelerates the first stage along the at least one axis in a first direction, the transmitter transmits the force such that the first stage provides a pulling force on the second stage from a direction of movement of the second stage, and wherein when the first driving device accelerates the first stage along the at least one axis in a second direction, the transmitter substantially does not transmit the force between the first stage and the second stage, whereby when at least one of a first speed of the first stage and a second speed of the second stage is substantially constant, the second driving device moves the second stage to position the second stage at a desired position.

43. (Amended) A method for positioning an object, the method comprising:

accelerating a first stage along at least one axis;

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accelerating a second stage with the first stage along the at least one axis in a first direction by transmitting force between the first stage and the second stage by utilizing a transmitter when the first stage accelerates in the first direction, wherein when the first stage accelerates along the at least one axis in a second direction, the transmitter substantially does not transmit the force between the first stage and the second stage; and

positioning the second stage by utilizing a driving device that moves the second stage relative to the first stage when at least one of a first speed of the first stage and a second speed of the second stage is constant, wherein the transmitter transmits the force such that the first stage acts as a pulling force on the second stage from a direction of movement of the second stage.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 14, 2002 is respectfully requested.